

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (currently amended) An endless steel band for belt presses to produce a product with an improved constant skid resistance surface, especially double belt presses, said endless steel band with a thickness of between 2 mm to 4 mm, preferably 2.5 mm to 3.5 mm, that is turned around on drums of the belt press, and whose surface has a maximum medium roughness of up to RZ 50.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; a plurality of depressions being provided, starting from a surface of the steel band and extending into the steel band, wherein the depressions are substantially evenly distributed, and the depressions extend inwardly 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to 600  $\mu\text{m}$  from the surface of the steel band.

Claim 2. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that, in addition to the depressions of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  to 600  $\mu\text{m}$  deep, further depressions of less than 200  $\mu\text{m}$  deep are also provided.

Claim 3. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that each of the depressions, measured on the surface of the steel band, has a cross sectional area of at least 2  $\text{mm}^2$ .

Claim 4. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 3, characterized in that the cross sectional area is at least 3  $\text{mm}^2$ .

Claim 5. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the depressions extends into the surface of the steel band following a direction that represents a continuously and differentiable curve in a cross section normal to the surface of the steel band.

Claim 6. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one of the depressions has a curved bottom having a continuously and differentiable curve in a cross section normal to the surface of the steel band.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The endless steel band according to claim 1, 2 and/or 3, characterized in that at least one of the depressions in a cross section parallel to the surface of the steel band is circle-shaped.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The endless steel band according to claim 1, 2 and/or 3, characterized in that at least one of the depressions in a cross section parallel to the surface of the steel band is oblong-shaped.

Claim 9. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 8, characterized in that the depressions are arranged in lines that are parallel to one another.

Claim 10. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 9, characterized in that the depressions of two adjacent lines form an angle less than 180°.

Claim 11. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 10, characterized in that the angle is less than 160°.

Claim 12. (original) The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that the depressions are made by stock removal.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that the depressions are produced by rolling, ~~preferably cold rolling~~.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A weldable round plate for replacing defective areas of the steel band according to claim 1, characterized in that an area on the round plate has a plurality of depressions corresponding to the steel band.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A method of producing a plate with elevations by belt presses comprising the step of: utilizing Use of an endless steel band according to claim 1 for the production of plates, preferably wood-based plates, with elevations.

Claim 16. (currently amended) The method use of an endless steel band according to claim 15, wherein for the production of a chipboard with elevations is produced.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The method use of an endless steel band according to claim 16, characterized in that the chipboard has a plurality of chips with a length from about 120 mm to about 300 mm and preferably a thickness from 0.5 mm to 2.5 mm.

Claim 18. (currently amended) The method use of an endless steel band according to claim 16, characterized in that the chipboard has chip layers parallel to one another.

Claim 19. (currently amended) A method of producing plates from plastic, including acrylates, with elevations, comprising the step of utilizing Use of an endless steel band according to claims 1 for the production of plates from plastic, including acrylates, with elevations.

Claim 20. (new) The endless steel band according to claim 1, characterised in that the thickness of the steel band is between 2.5 mm to 3.5 mm.